NUMB. I.

The Universal Instructor in all Arts and Sciences:
AND
Pennsylvania Gazette.

To be continued Weekly. Decemb. 24. 1728.

A

AS he that intends to erect a noble and magnificent Structure, is oblig'd to make Use of the meaneſt and moſt contemptible Materials, in Order to begin, carry on, and perfect his Undertaking; ſo no Perſon whatever can make any true Judgment what Sort of Building it will be, by only beholding the preparing of the Mortar, the digging of the Stones, the ſquaring the Marble, or the mixing of the Colours.

The ſame may juſtly be obſerv'd of our *Univerſal Inſtructor*; for as Great Things are compounded of Small, we think it neceſſary, in Order to furniſh our Paper with proper Materials deſerving that Character, to introduce it with an Expoſition on the Letter A, the firſt in the Alphabet; and as *Letters* were before *Words*, and *Words* only ſerve as ſo many Meſſengers to declare the Nature and Property of *Things*, it cannot be thought impertinent to begin at the loweſt End firſt, and advance by Degrees, to the higheſt Pitch of Knowledge we aim to arrive at. But to proceed,

The Grammarians will needs have *A* to be the firſt Letter in all Languages; and ſome of 'em aſſign a natural Reaſon for it, *viz.* That it is the moſt ſimple, and eaſieſt to be pronounc'd of all articulate Sounds. To confirm this, *Julius Scaliger*, a famous Author obſerves, that *A* is the firſt Sound Nature puts forth at the crying and ſmiling of Infants; and that it needs no other Motion to form it, but a bare opening of the Lips.

Covarruvias, refining on this Sentiment of *Scaliger*, obſerves very gravely, that the firſt Sound put forth by Boys, is *A*; but that Girls firſt put forth *E*; each pronouncing the initial or firſt Letter of the Name of the Parent of its reſpective Sex. Dr. *Littleton*, (ſetting *Adam* aſide) makes the one ſpeak the final, and the other the initial Letter of the Mother of Mankind, *EvA*.

But 'tis in vain that Authors compare the *A* of the *Engliſh*, *Latin*, *French*, &c. with the *Aleph* of the *Hebrews*, or the *Eliph* of the *Arabs*; thoſe two Letters having no Conformity with our *European* A, except in this, that they are the firſt of their ſeveral Alphabets. What makes a greater Difference, is, that theſe Oriental or Eaſtern *A*'s are not Vowels.

Some Criticks take the *Hebrew Aleph* to be neither Vowel nor Conſonant, but what the Grammarians call an *Aſpirate* or *Pneumatick* Letter, [*that is, a Letter pronounc'd with a ſtrong Breath*] like the *H* in the *Latin*, and our Language; adding that St. *Jerom* appears to have had the ſame Thought, who probably learnt it from the *Jews* of the School of *Tiberias*. But the Jeſuits *de Trevoux* give the Thing another Turn. Thoſe Fathers have prov'd that the Hebrew *Aleph*, Arabick *Eliph*, and Syriack *Oliph*, are real Conſonants, and that the ſame holds of all the other Aſpirates.

The *Thalmudiſts*, a Sort of *Jewiſh* Rabbies, in their *Cabbala*, [*which is a Myſtical Expoſition from* Words *and* Letters *in their Law*] pretending to find out abſtruſe and hidden Meanings therein, tell us, the *Aleph* and *Beth*, the two firſt Letters being join'd, make *Ab*, which ſignifies *Father* in *Hebrew*, and by tranſpoſing 'em into *Ba*, make *Abba*, which in the *Syriac* and *Chaldee* ſignify the ſame Thing; whereby they would ſhew, they point

A

to God, as Father of all Things. Tho' this Way of Explication has been much corrupted, and conſequently condemn'd by many Learned Writers.

Of all the Letters, *A* is obſerv'd to be that which dumb Perſons are ſooneſt taught to pronounce. The Reaſon is, that it does not depend on the Muſcles, or other Organs of the Mouth and Tongue, which are generally wanting in Mutes; but on thoſe of the Throat and Noſe, which they commonly have.

This firſt ſimpleſt Sound *A* ſerves us to expreſs moſt of the Movements of the Soul. 'Tis ſo much the Language of Nature, that upon all ſudden and extraordinary Occaſions, we are neceſſarily led to it, as the Inſtrument ready at hand. With this we ſpeak our Admiration, Joy, Anguiſh, Averſion, Apprehenſion of Danger, *&c.* Where the Paſſion is very ſtrong, we frequently heighten the *A*, by adding an *Aſpirate*, Ah.

'Tis obſerv'd of the *Engliſh* Pronunciation, that we ſpeak the *A* with a ſlenderer and more puny Sound than any of our Neighbours: Ordinarily, 'tis ſcarce broad enough for a *French* E Neuter, and comes far ſhort of the groſs *a* of the *Germans*, which would make our *au*, or *aw*, or *o*. In ſome Words however as *talk*, *wall*, *ſtall*, *&c.* the *a* is broad, and deep enough. But this, 'tis obſerv'd, may not be the meer Sound of *a*; but the Effect of the antient Orthography, which, as low as Qu. *Elizabeth*, added an *u* to the *a*, and wrote *taulk*, *waulk*, &c.

The *Romans* laid a mighty Streſs on their *a*; and diſtinguiſh'd exactly, both in Writing and Speaking, when it was long, and when ſhort. To denote it long, they firſt wrote it double, *Aala* for *Ala*; which not being enough, they inſerted an *h* between 'em, *Ahala*. At length they fell to the common long Accent *āla* or *âla*.

A was one of the Numeral Letters among the Antients, and ſignify'd 500. With a Daſh on the Top ā, it ſtood for 5000.

Baronius gives us a Set of ancient Technical Verſes, [*that is, Verſes treating of Art*, Technical *being a Word from the* Greek, *ſo ſignifying*] wherein the Numeral Value of each Letter of the Alphabet is expreſs'd, whereof this is the firſt,

Poſſidet A *numeros quingentos, ordine recto,*

which tranſlated into *Engliſh* Verſe, is,

A by it ſelf, [*as learned* Bar--- *confeſſes*]
Five Hundred Numbers (in right Line) poſſeſſes.

But we ſhall here obſerve, once for all, that it was not ſtrictly among the Ancients, that this Uſe of Numeral Letters had Place, as is commonly ſuppos'd. *Iſidore Hiſpalenſis*, an Author of the VIIth Century, affirms it expreſly, *Latini autem numeros ad Literas non computant*; that is, *But the* Latins *do not reckon their Numbers by Letters.* The Uſage was really introduc'd in the Days of Barbariſm. Monſieur *du Cange*, explaining what that Uſage was, at the beginning of each Letter of his Gloſſary, [*which is a* Dictionary *of obſcure, ancient and barbarous Words and Phraſes of an alter'd, corrupted, or refined Language*] the Generality of Dictionary-Writers,

who

who take it from him, miſtake him. The Account, they all ſay, is found in *Valerius Probus*; whereas *du Cange* ſays no ſuch Thing; but only that it is found in a Collection of Grammarians, among whom are *Valerius Probus*, and *Petrus Diaconus*.

A is alſo us'd in the *Julian* Calendar, as the firſt of the Seven Dominical Letters.

It had been in Uſe among the *Romans*, long before the Eſtabliſhment of Chriſtianity, as the firſt of the Eight * *Nundinæ Literales*, [*the Meaning of which ſee in the Note at Bottom*] in Imitation whereof it was, that the Dominical Letters were firſt introduc'd.

A is alſo an Abbreviation us'd in divers Arts, and with divers Intentions: Thus,

Among *Logicians*, *A* is us'd to denote an univerſal Affirmative Propoſition, according to the Verſe.

Aſſerit A, *negat* E, *verum generaliter amba*,

which tranſlated into *Engliſh*, is,

A doth affirm, indeed, and *E* denies,
Each of theſe two, a different Senſe implies.

Thus in the firſt Mood, [*Logick* having 14,] a Syllogiſm [*which is an Argument conſiſting of three Propoſitions*, viz. Major, Minor *and* Conſequence] is ſaid to be in *Barbara*; the *A* thrice repeated, denotes ſo many of the Propoſitions to be univerſal and affirmative. For Example,

Major, *Whoever ſuffers a Man to ſtarve, whom he ought to ſuſtain, is a Churl.*
Minor, *Whoever is rich, and refuſes to give Alms, ſuffers thoſe to ſtarve, whom he ought to ſuſtain.*
Conſequ. *Therefore whoever is rich, and refuſes to give Alms, is a Churl.*

Among the *Romans*, *A* was us'd in the giving of Votes, or Suffrages. When a new Law was propos'd, each Voter had two Wooden Ballots [or little Balls] put in his Hand, the one mark'd with a Capital *A*, ſignifying *Antiquam volo*, the other with *U. R.* for *Uti Rogas*. Such as were againſt the Law paſſing, caſt the firſt into the Urn, as if he ſhould ſay, *I refuſe it, I antiquate it*, or *I like the ancient Law, and deſire no Innovation.*

In the Trial of Criminal Cauſes, the ſame Letter *A* denoted Abſolution; whence *Cicero* calls A, *Litera Salutaris*, a ſaving Letter. Three Ballots were diſtributed to each Judge, mark'd with the Letters, *A* for *Abſolvo*, I abſolve, *C.* for *Condemno*, I condemn, and *N. L.* for *Non Liquet*, It is not clear. From the Number of each caſt into the Urn, the Prætor or Mayor pronounc'd the Priſoner's Doom. If they were equal in Number he was abſolv'd.

In the ancient Inſcriptions of Marbles, &c. *A* occaſionally ſtands for *Auguſtus*, a proper Name, *Ager*, a Field, *aiunt*, they ſay, &c. when double, it denotes *Auguſti*, and when triple *Auro* in Gold, *Argento* in Silver, *Ære* in Braſs. *Iſidore* adds, that when it occurs after the Word *Miles*, a Soldier, it denotes him young.

On the Reverſe of ancient Medals, *A* denotes 'em ſtruck by the City *Argos* in *Greece*. And among the later Coins, the ſame Letter is the Mark of *Paris*.

Among *Engliſh* Writers, *A* is ordinarily us'd for *Anno*, as *A. D. Anno Domini*; for *Artium*, as for *A. M.* Maſter of Arts; *A. B.* for Batchelor of Arts.

Among Phyſicians, *ā* or *āā* is us'd in Preſcription for *ana*; to denote an equal Portion of Ingredients, whether in Reſpect of Weight or Meaſure.

Thus, ℞ *Sal. Volat. Oleoſ. Tinct. Croc. āā* ℥ ſs expreſſes *Sal Volatile Oleoſum*, and Tincture of Saffron, of each Half an Ounce.

The ſame *ā* or *āā* is alſo us'd in the like Senſe; without expreſſing any limited Quantity or Weight: Thus *ā* or *āā P. Æ.* denotes ſimply equal Parts of the Ingredients there mentioned.

Laſtly, among Chymiſts, *A A A* ſignifies an *Amalgama*, which ſee an Expoſition of in our following Papers.

WE have little News of Conſequence at preſent, the *Engliſh* Prints being generally ſtufft with Robberies, Cheats, Fires, Murders, Bankrupcies, Promotions of ſome, and Hanging of others; nor can we expect much better till Veſſels arrive in the Spring, when we hope to inform our Readers what has been doing in the Court and Cabinet, in the Parliament-Houſe as well as the Seſſions-houſe, ſo that we wiſh, in our *American* World, it may be ſaid, as Dr. *Wild* wittily expreſs'd it of the *European*, *viz.*

We all are ſeiz'd with the Athenian Itch,
News *and* New Things *do the whole World bewitch.*

In the mean Time we hope our Readers will be content for the preſent, with what we can give 'em, which if it does 'em no Good, ſhall do 'em no Hurt. 'Tis the beſt we have, and ſo take it.

Rome, *Sept.* 1. *This Court is very much perplexed at the vigorous Reſolutions which the Court of* Portugal *has taken againſt it.*

Hamburg. *Sept.* 7. *There is a great Talk of a Marriage between the Duke of* Holſtein *in* Germany, *and the Princeſs Royal of* Denmark, *in Order by that Alliance to compoſe the Differences which have ſo long ſubſiſted between the two Houſes.*

Hague, *Sept.* 17. *There is no Room to doubt but the Court of* France *will have the Complaiſance for that of* Great Britain, *to order the Departure of the Duke of* Wharton, *who continues upon the Coaſt of* Normandy, *as is ſaid, with no good Deſigns.*

Oznaburgh *in* Germany, *Sept.* 3. *The Election of a new Biſhop is fixed for the* 22*d of this Month, and the Elector of* Cologn, *ſeems to ſtand faireſt to be choſen.*

Dublin, *Sept.* 5. *This Day the Weavers of this City made a Proceſſion in ample Form, and before 'em was carried a large Weaving-Loom, fix'd on a Frame, which was drawn by ſix Horſes, on which were many large Streamers of fine Silk curiouſly wrought with different Colours, the Manufacture of which is brought to great Perfection in that City. This Politick Method is ſaid to be taken, to raiſe a Spirit of Emulation in the People to outvie one another in*

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* Nundinæ Literales, *that is*, Nundinal Letters, *being the Eight firſt Letters of the Alphabet, us'd in their Kalendar.*

This Series of eight Letters, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, *is placed and repeated ſucceſſively from the firſt to the laſt Day of the Year, one of theſe always expreſs'd the Market-Days call'd* Nundinæ, quaſi Novendinæ, *becauſe they returned every Nine Days.*

The Country People, after working eight Days ſucceſſively, came to Town the Ninth, to ſell their ſeveral Commodities, and to inform themſelves of what related to Religion and Government.

in Workmanſhip, the Government giving a Reward conſiderable to any one that outdoes, or makes the beſt Piece of Linnen, or Silk.

Letters from all Parts of the Country, bring Accounts of the great Deſolation made by the late Storms, on the Corn, and of ſeveral Ships being loſt on the Coaſt of Kerry.

LONDON, Sept. 18.

His Majeſty hath been pleaſed to grant to Henry Brown, Eſq; *a Patent for the ſole Uſe and Benefit of his new Invention of making Cannon of Braſs and Iron, which will be much ſhorter and lighter, and with leſs Powder will carry further than thoſe of equal Bore now in Uſe, which 'tis ſaid will ſave a great deal of Expence to the Publick.*

Robberies are ſo frequent in and about London, *that* 100 *l. is given by the King, over and above the uſual Rewards, which if we are not miſinform'd, makes it near Three Hundred Pounds Reward for every Robber ſo convicted.*

One Sylveſter *of* Queen's-Square, *was robb'd by a Man, a Woman, and a Boy in a Livery-Frock.*

Andrew Crampton *of* Bloomsbury-Market, *was robb'd going over* Lincoln-Inn-Fields, *who took from him* 11 *s.* 6 *d. in Money and Wig.*

One Winter, *a Brewer on* Windmill-hill, *was knock'd down on* Ludgate-hill, *and robbed of* 4 *or* 5 *Shillings.*

John Hampſhire, *formerly a Turnkey of the* Marſhalſea-Priſon, *was aſſaulted by ſome Ruffians in* Finſbury, *who took from him his Money and Handkerchief.*

Several Perſons were robbed on their Return from walking in the Fields, by two Footpads near Kiegſton.

It ſeems Robbing is become faſhionable all over the World; for we have had a Robbery of our own, laſt Seventh-Day Night, at Pentſoken, *in* Bucks-County, *in* Pennſylvania, *at the Houſe of a* Dutch *Tavern-keeper, where the Rogues took* 5 *l.* 9 *s. from a Traveller, who called in there to refreſh himſelf.*

Ten poor People were buried out of the Workhouſe at St. James's, *(ſo called) in one Night, one of them a Woman* 103 *Years of Age.*

One William Hale, formerly Partner with Sir Steven Evance, a Banker in Lombard-ſtreet, having by ſome indirect Means procured a Frank for a Letter, ſign'd by Tho. Gibſon, Eſq; one of the Repreſentatives in Parliament, erazed out the Word *Free*, and over the Name drew up a Promiſſary Note for 6400 *l.* payable to one Watſon, which he carried the next Day to Hoare and Company, Bankers in Fleet-ſtreet, and they gave him their own Notes for it, which he got exchanged at Alderman Hankey's, and Braſſey's two eminent Banker's, for their own and other Bank Notes, with which he bought ſome India and South-Sea Bonds. The Day following, Hoare ſent the Note to Gibſon, who was much ſurprized at the Sight of it, having never given ſuch a Note, and not knowing the Perſon it was made payable to; but obſerving by the Help of a Candle the Word *Free* erazed out, the Fraud was diſcovered: On which immediate Notice was given to prevent Hoare's Notes from circulating, and it being found what Numbers and Dates the Bank Notes which had been given him at Alderman Hankey's and Baſſey's, were, he went to the Bank to ſtop Payment, but found about 164 *l.* had been paid. While they were there, one came with two Notes for 200 *l.* each, who being ſtopt, carried them where Hale waited for him, whom they ſeiz'd, and found almoſt all the Value about him.

A Day or two after, Hale was committed to Priſon, by Alderman Bellamy, for forging the ſaid Note.

Boſton, *December* 2. *The five following Acts have been paſſed by the General Aſſembly of the* Maſſachuſets *Bay, in* New-England, *at their Seſſion on Adjournment at* Boſton, July 24, 1728. *which his Excellency the Governor was pleaſed to give his Aſſent to,* viz.

An Act for repealing an Act, intitled, An Act for the puniſhing and preventing of Duelling, and for making other Proviſion inſtead thereof.

An Act more effectually to ſecure the Duty on the Importation of Negroes.

An Act for the Encouragement of making Paper.

An Act for regulating the Ferry between Briſtol *and* Rhode-Iſland.

An Act for altering the Time for holding the Court of General Seſſions of the Peace, and Inferior Courts of Common-Pleas within the Counties of Eſſex, Middleſex, *and* Plymouth.

Burlington, Dec. 18.

The Humble ADDRESS of the Repreſentatives of the Province of *New-Jerſey* in Aſſembly met.

To his Excellency John Montgomerie, Eſq; *Capt. General, and Commander in chief, in and over the Provinces of* New-Jerſey, New-York, *and Territories thereon depending in* America, *and Vice-Admiral of the ſame.*

May it pleaſe your Excellency,

WE His Majeſty's moſt loyal and dutiful Subjects, the Repreſentatives of the Province of *New-Jerſey*, in General Aſſembly conven'd, with much Pleaſure embrace this Occaſion heartily to congratulate your Excellency on your Acceſſion to this Government.

Your long Reſidence near his Majeſty's Perſon, gave you the better Opportunity of beholding ſo illuſtrious an Example; and having now the Honour of repreſenting him here, to imitate the Beauties of his Government; your Excellency need not copy after another Draught. You have ſeen the Original, and it will be your Miſtake if the Picture don't reſemble it. But of this we have no Reaſon to doubt; the Offices of Truſt you have enjoyed under him; your hav-

having been a Member of ſo Auguſt an Aſſembly as the Parliament of *Great Britain*, ſhews you equally a Favourite of Prince and People; and muſt by a long Acquaintance with Affairs of State, have fitted you the better to govern.

We therefore take it as a ſingular Inſtance of our Sovereign's Care over us, in nominating a Perſon ſo well qualified as our Governour.

Be pleaſed to accept of our hearty and ſincere Thanks for the Opportunity offered us of making ſuch Laws as may ſecure and advance the Intereſt of this Province, and believe that it is not a little grateful to us to find your Excellency has our Intereſt ſo much in View as to make Choice of ſuch a Time for thoſe Purpoſes wherein our Abſence from our private Affairs will be attended with the feweſt Inconveniencies.

We eſteem it a peculiar Mark of his Majeſty's Goodneſs, that he has been pleaſed to inſtruct your Excellency to contribute all you can to our being a happy and flouriſhing People; and it is highly ſatisfactory to us at this Diſtance from his Royal Perſon, and the Seat of his Government, to find That does not hinder his Care and Concern for our Proſperity.

As your Excellency has been pleaſed to intimate to us your Readineſs to concur with ſuch Laws that may be for the Benefit of thoſe we repreſent, ſo on our Part, we hope on all Occaſions with the like Readineſs, to expreſs our Duty and Gratitude to his Majeſty, and in particular relating to the Revenue, by adding to the Settlement already made, in ſuch a Manner, as will demonſtrate the Confidence we repoſe in him, to equal that in his Royal Predeceſſor; nor are we under any Apprehenſions but what may be given for the Support of this Government, will be employed for our Honour and Safety.

Of your Excellency's Sufficiency for the Truſt repoſed in you, and your Endeavours to diſcharge it faithfully, with Regard to his Majeſty's Intereſt, and the Good of his Subjects here, we make no Queſtion, and are entirely of your Opinion, that his Intereſt and ours are inſeparable.

Divers of this Houſe being of the People called *Quakers*, concur with the Matter and Subſtance of this Addreſs, but have ſome Exceptions to the Stile.

By Order of the Houſe,

John Johnſton, Speaker.

To which Addreſs *His Excellency was pleaſed to return the following Anſwer.*

Gentlemen,

I Thank You for your Addreſs, and it is with great Pleaſure I hear you expreſs your Loyalty and Gratitude to a good and gracious King, who, I aſſure you, will from Time to Time, give you freſh Inſtances of his Paternal Care and Concern for your Proſperity.

I am obliged to you for the good Opinion you have of me, which I will always endeavour to deſerve. And it is a great Encouragement to me, in the Station I have the Honour to be in here, to know, that while I am advancing the Intereſt and Happineſs of his People, I am at the ſame Time obeying my Maſter's Commands, and ſerving him Faithfully.

John Montgomerie.

A Petition was preſented to the Houſe, by *Samuel Keimer*, repreſenting the Charge he had been at in making their Money, and to prevent its being eaſily counterfeited.

Which Petition being read, a Committee was appointed to enquire into the Allegations of the ſaid Petition, and make a Report of the ſame to the Houſe.

And then the Houſe adjourn'd till the laſt Day of *December*.

We hear a Motion will be made to the Houſe, to build a Bridge over *Ancocas*, which if granted, will be of great Service to the Country.

His Excellency the Governour of *York* is hourly expected to give our Honourable Governour a Viſit.

Juſt publiſhed,

SOme neceſſary and Important Conſiderations, to be conſider'd of by all ſorts of People. Taken out of (that Worthy and Renowned Judge) Sir *Mathew Hale*'s Writings: And therein his own Experience of the Inward, and Inviſible Guidance of the Spirit of God. The Ninth Edition, with Additions, To be Sold by *Samuel Keimer*.

Juſt Publiſhed,

GOd's Mercy ſurmounting Man's Cruelty, Exemplifyed in the Captivity and Redemption of *Elizabeth Hanſon*, Wife of *John Hanſon*, of *Knoxmarſh* at *Keacheachy*, in *Dover*-Townſhip, who was taken Captive with her Children and Maid-Servant, by the *Indians* in *New-England*, in the Year 1724. In which are inſerted, Sundry remarkable Preſervations, Deliverances, and Marks of the Care and Kindneſs of Providence over her and her Children, worthy to be remembred. The Subſtance of which was taken from her own Mouth, and now publiſhed for a general Service. To be ſold by *Samuel Keimer*, in *Philadelphia*, and *W. Heurtin* Goldſmith in *New-York*.

TO be Sold very cheap, Ruggs, Blankets, Broadcloaths with Trimming ſuitable to it, Courſe and Fine Linnen, Men and Womens Worſted and Thread Stockins, and Cotten Capps, Hand-ſaws, Axes, Augres, Gimlets, &c. By *Thomas Campbell*, lately arrived from *Ireland*, at *Samuel Keimer*'s in *Philadelphia*.

PHILADELPHIA: *Printed by* Samuel Keimer, *where Subſcriptions are taken in for this Paper, at* Ten Shillings *a Year, and Advertiſements inſerted at* Three Shillings *each.*